REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended, and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-18 are pending in this case. Claims 12, 13, and 15 are amended by the present Amendment. Support for Amended Claims 12, 13, and 15 can be found in the original specification, claims, and drawings.[1] No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the claims were objected to because of informalities; Claims 12-15, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,535, hereinafter "Tatebayashi") in view of Doi (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,947); Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi and Doi further in view of Tagawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,442, hereinafter "Tagawa"); Claims 12-15, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi further in view of Canova, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,230,074, hereinafter "Canova"); and Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi and Canova further in view of Tagawa.

In response to the objection to Claims 12-18, line 8 of Claim 12 is amended to recite "decoded data" instead of "the decoded data." Further, the outstanding Office Action at page 3, line 4 asserts that "the claim does not recite decoding data." However, Claim 12 recites "a decoding mechanism configured to decode data...." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 12-15, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Doi or Canova, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

[1] See the specification at page 4, lines 3-14; page 9, lines 12-18; and page 22, line 10 to page 23, line 27.

Briefly summarizing, amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a general-purpose computer including, *inter alia*, a "loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from said central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in an active state and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data without control of a central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in said inactive state."

Turning now to the applied art, Tatebayashi describes a digital content protection system 100 including a memory card 200, a memory card writer 300, and a memory card reader 400, as shown in Figure 1. A user places the memory card 200 in a personal computer 500, the memory card 200 receives, from the memory card writer 300, digital content such as music data via the internet and records the received content on the memory card 200. After recording, the user places the memory card 200 in a headphone stereo 401 which reproduces the contents recorded on the memory card 200 using the headphone stereo 401.[2]

Tatebayashi also describes a mutual authentication control unit 254 that judges whether the memory card writer 300 or the memory card reader 400 in which the memory card 200 is placed is an authorized device; if not, the mutual authentication control unit 254 judges that the memory card writer 300 or the memory card reader 400 is an unauthorized device. The mutual authentication control unit 254 then outputs an authentication signal showing whether the memory card writer 300 or the memory card reader 400 is an unauthorized device, to a control unit 280.[3]

However, Tatebayashi does not show a general purpose computer with a loading mechanism configured to read decoded data based on commands from the central processing unit when the general-purpose computer is in an inactive state and the loading mechanism is configured to read decoded data without control of a central processing unit when the

[2] See Tatebayashi at column 8, lines 35-51.
[3] See Tatebayashi at column 8, lines 8-20.

general-purpose computer is in an inactive state. In fact, Tatebayashi does not describe a general-purpose computer in an inactive state at all. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Tatebayashi does not teach or suggest every element of amended independent Claim 12.

Turning now to Doi, Doi describes a power control apparatus having a plurality of external devices and adapted to be used in a computer system to reduce the power consumption in an idle state.[4] However, Doi also does not teach or suggest that a "loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from said central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in an active state and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data without control of a central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in said inactive state."

Doi merely describes that the voltages of devices which are controlled by a CPU can be reduced to 0V. The CPU itself is never shut down, just some of the peripheral devices are shut down or put into a reduced power mode. In Doi, a CPU must be used to read decoded data all of the time, both in an active state and in an inactive state. Thus, in Doi, there is not a loading device configured to read decoded data ***without control of a central processing unit when the general-purpose computer is in an inactive state***.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Doi does not teach or suggest every element of amended independent Claim 12.

Lastly, Canova describes a computer with two processors. A main processor operates under the control of an operating system and provides overall control of the computer for executing application programs. The main processor also assists in power management by executing certain interrupts and controlling a power control register to turn power on and off

[4] See the abstract of Doi.

to various devices.[5] However, Canova fails to teach or suggest that a "loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from said central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in an active state and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data without control of a central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in said inactive state," as in Applicants' amended independent Claim 12.

In Canova, power management functions are merely distributed between two processors.[6] Under battery power, computer 10 operates in two different modes, active and suspend. When active, processor 12 runs at a preselected speed. An application can also shut off power to the processor 12 by turning of its VCC input. When operating under battery power, processor 12 is run at 5, 10, or 20 MHZ.[7] Thus, in Canova a processor is needed to control various functions. In contrast in Applicant's amended independent Claim 12, a loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data ***without control of a central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in said inactive state.***

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 and all claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Tatebayashi, Doi, Canova, and. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Tagawa fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Tatebayashi, Doi, and Canova.

[5] See the abstract of Canova.
[6] See Canova at column 1, lines 53-55.
[7] See Canova at column 5, lines 41-49.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 12-18 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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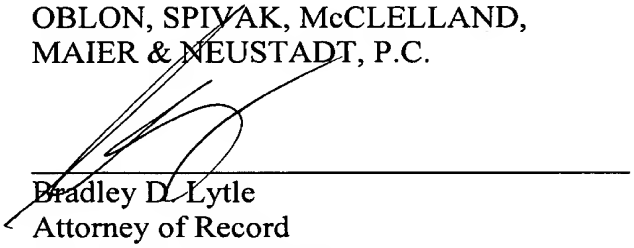

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